

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

*Please amend claims 30, 32-36, 38, 40, and 41 as follows:*

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Claims 1-29 (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) A joining connection for functional parts of hydraulic or pneumatic operating devices, ~~in particular of operating rams such as props for underground mining,~~ the joining connection comprising with a first part of a hydraulic or pneumatic operating device having an outer wall section and a second part of a hydraulic or pneumatic operating device having an inner wall section, which parts can be joined together and connected to each other with mutually overlapping wall sections, with the sections are overlapping with a transition fit or a clearance fit, wherein both wall sections comprise a depression, which in the connected state form a cavity being filled with a casting compound of plastic, which is plasticised and fluid by means of heating, and which after its hardening or solidification withstands shear force loads of at least 20 N/mm<sup>2</sup> and connects the two parts to each other by means of a positive form fit, and wherein one of the parts comprises a filling or injection opening for the casting compound, which opening leads via a casting channel into the corresponding depression.

31. (Previously Presented) The joining connection in accordance with Claim 30, wherein both wall sections comprise a plurality of depressions.

32. (Currently Amended) The joining connection in accordance with Claim 31, wherein the depressions ~~comprise~~ consist of circumferential corrugations, grooves or channels, which are aligned at right-angles to ~~at~~ the separating line between the parts.

33. (Currently Amended) The joining connection in accordance with Claim 32, wherein the corrugations, grooves or channels ~~have~~ are having faces rising up ~~from~~ the wall section.

34. (Currently Amended) The joining connection in accordance with Claim 33, wherein ~~adjacent~~the faces are angled at right-angles to each other.

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35. (Currently Amended) The joining connection in accordance with Claim 33, wherein ~~an~~the angle of inclination of ~~the longer ones of the faces~~face to the wall section is 25° to 35°, ~~in particular is approximately 30°.~~

36. (Currently Amended) The joining connection in accordance with Claim 31, wherein the corrugations, grooves or channels are arranged in the wall sections of both parts such that the casting compound solidifies or hardens to form rings with right-angled cross-sections.

37. (Previously Presented) The joining connection in accordance with Claim 31, wherein adjacent depressions in the wall sections are separated from each other by a web, and in the assembled state the webs of the wall sections of the first and second parts lie directly opposed to each other.

38. (Currently Amended) The joining connection in accordance with Claim 30, wherein the depression of the wall section of one of the parts leads into a feeder channel to an annular space, adapted to be filled with the casting compound in order to cast a guide sleeve for a body that is axially movable in the interior of said one of the parts~~this part~~ or for said one of the parts~~the part~~ itself.

39. (Previously Presented) The joining connection in accordance with Claim 30, wherein the casting compound of plastic in the hardened or solidified state withstands shear force loads of at least 45 N/mm<sup>2</sup>.

40. (Currently Amended) The joining connection in accordance with Claim 30, wherein the casting compound is a polyamide, polyphenylether, or polyterephthalate thermoplastic selected from the group consisting of, in particular a polyamide or a

~~polyphenylether or a polyterephthalate, in particular a polybutyleneterephthalate and, or a~~  
polyvinylidenfluoride.

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41. (Currently Amended) The joining connection in accordance with Claim 30, wherein the casting compound is a ~~fibre-reinforced casting compound, in particular a~~ glass fibre-reinforced casting compound.

42. (Previously Presented) The joining connection in accordance with Claim 30, wherein the joining connection for the maintenance of the functional parts of the operating device may be separated by means of heating and therewith plasticisation of the plastic material of the joining connection.

43. (Previously Presented) The joining connection in accordance with Claim 32, wherein the joining connection for the maintenance of the functional parts of the operating device may be separated by means of heating and therewith plasticisation of the plastic material of the joining connection.

44. (Previously Presented) The joining connection in accordance with Claim 36, wherein the joining connection for the maintenance of the functional parts of the operating device may be separated by means of heating and therewith plasticisation of the plastic material of the joining connection.